

different to *Riparia chinensis*, larger and, in the case of one flock, with paler rumps. This is the more probable in that birds found breeding at Jhelum (Ibis, 1916, p. 69) were referred to *Riparia riparia* and described as a new race of that form, *R. r. indica* Ticehurst. I have carefully compared these Jhang birds with those from Jhelum, and there is no doubt of their distinctness. On the other hand, breeding-birds obtained in January and February at Campbellpore and Attock by Mr. A. E. Jones are the same as the Jhelum birds. It is clear that a lot of work remains to be done as regards the Sand-Martins of India.

***Riparia rupestris* (Scopoli).**

A winter straggler only; one was seen at Jhang on 8 March, 1918, one or two about the low hills at Yakkawala on 23 February, 1919, and one at Jhang on 2 January, 1920.

[***Delichon urbica* (L.).**

Two Martins seen on 13 October, 1918, were almost certainly of this species.]

[To be continued.]

XVII.—Remarks on the Japanese Petrels of the Genus Oceanodroma. By NAGAMICHI KURODA, Rigakushi, M.O.S.J., F.M.B.O.U.

VISCOUNT Y. MATSUDAIRA, M.O.S.J., has recently collected a series of Petrels off the coast of Sagami Bay, Hondo, Japan, and has sent them to me for examination. They are preserved in his collection. I examined them very carefully, and came to the conclusion that the series contains two species. They are as follows:—

Oceanodroma Melania (Bonaparte).

Oceanodroma markhami owstoni (Mathews & Iredale).

Here I may mention the difference between these two birds, as shown in the following key:—

1. Shafts of primaries white in about the basal third of their length; head not distinctly tinged with greyish *O. melania*.
2. Shafts of primaries black; head distinctly tinged with greyish *O. owstoni*.

***Oceanodroma melania* (Bonaparte).**

Procellaria melania Bp. C. R. xxxviii. 1854, p. 662: Nicaragua to California.

This is an American species. Viscount Matsudaira obtained five male examples (all adult birds) off the coast of Sagami Bay, 4 to 28 May, 1921. I have examined these specimens, and found that they no doubt belong to the species. They agree very well with plate 6 of Godman's Monogr. Petrels. They are a deep sooty brown, and have the shafts of the primaries white for about the basal third of their length. The first primary is always longer than the fourth in the five specimens before me.

Salvin (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxv. 1896, p. 354) mentioned that a specimen from Japan in Canon Tristram's collection, attributed to *O. melania* by Seeböhm, is not a true *O. melania* but should be referred to *O. tristrami*, and Dr. Hartert is also of the same opinion, as follows:—

“Seeböhm liess sie irrtümlicherweise in Japan vorkommen, da er sie mit *tristrami* verwechselt hatte” (Vög. pal. Fauna, ii. p. 1416).

If Seeböhm's identification was erroneous, it seems probable that this is the first occasion on which the form has been obtained in Japanese waters. The following are the measurements in millimetres:—

Sex.	Exposed culmen.				Middle toe without claw.	Depth of tail fork.	Date.
		Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.			
♂	17.5	184	98.5	26	21	32.5	4. v. 1921
♂	17	189	100	28	23.5	34	21. v. ,
♂	17	185	100	27	23	33	, ,
♂	18	186	98.5	27	23	31	28. v. ,
♂	19	180	98	26	23	28.5	, ,

The culmen, wing, and tarsus are longer than the measurements given by Salvin, Godman, and Bailey, as is shown from the following table:—

Bill.	Culmen.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Depth of tail fork.	Measured by:
0·82 in.=20·5 mm.	0·6=15	7·0=178·5	3·5=89	1·21=31·5	—	Salvin
—	0·5=12·5	6·8-7·0=174·5-178·5	3·3=84	1·2=31	—	Godman
—	—	6·8=174·5	3·9=100	1·2=31	1·2=31	Bailey

If the Japanese examples have constantly a longer culmen, wing, and tarsus than the true *O. melania* in a more extended series, I propose to call them by the new name of

Oceanodroma melania matsudariæ, subsp. n.

Oceanodroma markhami owstoni (Mathews & Iredale).

Procellaria melania (nec Bp.) Seebold, Bds. Jap. Emp. 1890, p. 270.

Oceanodroma fuliginosa (nec Gm.) Stejneger, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvi. 1893, p. 620.

Oceanodroma markhami (nec Salvin) id. op cit. p. 621.

? *Oceanodroma tristrami* Salvin, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxv. 1896, p. 354 (type, Sendai Bay, Hondo, Japan).

Cymochorea owstoni Mathews & Iredale, Ibis, 1915, p. 58 (type, Okinose, in the Sagami Sea).

The form is a distinctly larger bird than typical *O. markhami*. In my opinion it is not separable from it as species but is subspecifically distinct.

A large series was obtained by Viscount Matsudaira off the coast of Sagami Bay, Hondo, Japan, from early to the end of May of the years 1917, 1920, and 1921. These birds agree perfectly with the description of Mathews & Iredale.

Dr. Hartert believed that *O. tristrami* was the young of *O. owstoni*, and that the name cannot be used for the bird for the following reasons:—

“ Die Beschreibung wurde von Ridgway entworfen, der Name von Stejneger vorgeschlagen; der Autor kann daher nur eigentlich Ridgway sein. Ich vermute, dass der leider verloren gegangene Typus eine junge *O. owstoni* war,

und wenn es ein junger Vögel war — wie Salvin meint, ohne ihn gesehen zu haben — so würde das zu kleine Flügelmaß dadurch erklärlich. Da jedoch der Name nicht absolut sicher ist, nehmen wir besser Mathews' neuen Namen an; auch Stücke von Sendai Bai werden die Frage kaum entscheiden können, da dort die Art nur eine zufällige Erscheinung sein dürfte" (Vög. pal. Fauna, ii. p. 1416).

Dr. Hartert's opinion, I think, is quite correct, and the usual habitat of the bird is off the coast of Sagami Sea, where the type specimen of *O. owstoni* was obtained.

A specimen obtained at Torishima in 1891, and now preserved in the Science College Museum in Tokyo, has been examined by me. It agrees well with the Sagami specimens before me. It was identified by Dr. Stejneger as *O. fuliginosa* (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xvi. 1893, p. 620).

Viscount Matsudaira has sent me an additional thirteen specimens from his own collection. There is no great individual variation except that the two newly-moulted birds (probably young ones) are rather darker grey than sooty, as in the other somewhat abraded specimens. One of them has its bill less stout and much like that of true *O. markhami*. Moreover, these two birds have their wings decidedly shorter than in the others, but the length of tarsus and toes of the two specimens are equal to the length of those of true *O. owstoni*. I am inclined to think that these two birds are not *O. markhami*, but the young (probably the bird of the second year) of *O. owstoni*. Another specimen, I suppose, is a young of the year. It has the mantle-feathers fringed with pale colour.

There is a variation of the wing-formula of these birds as follows:—

The first primary longer than the fourth ... 5 examples.

„ „ „ about equal to the fourth 4 „ „

„ „ „ shorter than the fourth ... 4 „ „

The length of tarsus in true *O. markhami* is only 24 mm. No females were obtained by Viscount Matsudaira.

Measurements in millimetres.

Measurements of the two newly-moulted birds (probably the young of Q , *nest 201*).

We have three other distinct species of *Oceanodroma* in Japanese waters, as follows :—

Oceanodroma leucorrhœa leucorrhœa (Vieillot).

Hab. Kurile Is. and Hokkaidō.

Oceanodroma monorhis monorhis (Swinhoe).

Hab. Prov. Mutsu, N. Hondo ; Loo-Choo Is. ; ? North-eastern Formosa.

Oceanodroma furcata (Gmelin).

Hab. Kurile Is. ; Hokkaidō ; Hondo (Sagami, Suruga, Kobe).

XVIII.—*Modern Nomenclature and Subspecies.*

By H. J. ELWES, F.R.S., M.B.O.U.

I HAVE long had it on my mind to write something on this subject, which in Botany and Entomology, as well as Ornithology, is becoming one of the greatest difficulties which any student has to cope with. If I wanted a good proof that our branch of biology, which has been raised, largely by British ornithologists in the pages of 'The Ibis,' to a higher standard of knowledge than any other kindred study, I cannot find a better one than the last numbers of this Journal. Comparing it with a volume of the time when I first joined the B. O. U. in 1866, I find that the whole scope of our work is changed, and that some of the most active and enthusiastic workers of the present time are devoting themselves to the study of the minute variations of birds, or to the attempt, in which there seems no prospect of finality or agreement, to discover what are the oldest names of many of our long known species.

As a proof that my opinion is not without support from ornithologists of knowledge and repute, I will refer first to a paper by our late President, Dr. Eagle Clarke, in the 'Scottish Naturalist' for September, 1912, on "The New Nomenclature of British Birds." He recites briefly the